

Application Serial No.: 10/671,044
Filing Date: September 24, 2003

Reply to Office action of: February 13, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: JP920020131US1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A processor-implemented document display system, comprising:

document storage means for storing a group of documents
exchanged via a network;

means for extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents
in the group of documents;

related information storage means for storing the relationship related
information in the group of documents stored in the document storage
means; and

virtual display document generation means for:

fetching the extracted relationship, the group of documents,
and an expansion condition for each document of the documents
group of documents;

forming a section group comprising the group of documents
selected according to the extracted relationship; and

generating a virtual display document ~~by embedding a
document read from the document storage means into a section
that is a component of the section group~~ by mapping the contents

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of the documents within the section group, and by combining the documents into the virtual document; and
wherein the documents within the virtual document are displayed according to the expansion condition associated with the documents.

2. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the virtual display document generation means forms the section group by embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

3. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the related information storage means stores information of a parent document related to [[the]] a document read from the document storage means.

4-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.

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22. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a thread; and

wherein the group of documents form a message.

23. (New) The system according to claim 22, further comprising an expansion condition storage unit for storing an expansion condition of the message, wherein the virtual document generation unit generates a section by fetching an expansion condition of the message from the expansion condition storage unit.

24. (New) The system according to claim 23, further comprising a user interactive processing unit for accepting an expansion request to a header from a user, wherein the virtual document generation unit is used to add the message to the virtual document on the basis of the expansion request accepted by the user interactive processing unit.

25. (New) The system according to claim 23, wherein the documents in the messages comprise a collection of documents that are scheduled for editing.

26. (New) A processor-implemented document display method, comprising:

storing a group of documents exchanged via a network;

extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in the group of documents;

storing the relationship;

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fetching the extracted relationship, the group of documents, and an expansion condition for each document of the documents group of documents;

forming a section group comprising the group of documents selected according to the extracted relationship;

generating a virtual document by mapping the contents of the documents within the section group, and by combining the documents into the virtual document; and

displaying the documents within the virtual document according to the expansion condition associated with the documents.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein forming the section group comprises embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein storing the relationship comprises storing information of a parent document related to a document read from the group of documents.

29. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.

30. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a thread; and

wherein the group of documents form a message.

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31. (New) The method according to claim 30, further comprising storing an expansion condition of the message; and

wherein generating the virtual document comprises generating a section by fetching an expansion condition of the message.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprising accepting an expansion request to a header from a user; and

adding the message to the virtual document on the basis of the accepted expansion request.

33. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the documents in the messages comprise a collection of documents that are scheduled for editing.

34. (New) A computer-program product having executable codes stored on a computer-usable medium for displaying a document, comprising:

program code for storing a group of documents exchanged via a network;

program code for extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in the group of documents;

program code for storing the relationship;

program code for fetching the extracted relationship, the group of documents, and an expansion condition for each document of the documents group of documents;

program code for forming a section group comprising the group of documents selected according to the extracted relationship;

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program code for generating a virtual document by mapping the contents of the documents within the section group, and by combining the documents into the virtual document; and

program code for displaying the documents within the virtual document according to the expansion condition associated with the documents.

35. (New) The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the program code for forming the section group embeds a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

36. (New) The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the program code for storing the relationship stores information of a parent document related to a document read from the group of documents.

37. (New) The computer program product according to claim 34, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.